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and emphasis are attained than would be possible in a more colorful presentation. Reid is emphasized, not eulogized. When Mr. Cortissoz gives us his own impressions—as when he describes the files of the *Xenia News* as a window opening upon Reid's early life, or when he points out that Reid's activities in connection with Greeley's nomination were the real beginning of his success as a diplomatist—he really gives helpful hints toward the understanding of his subject. But for the most part this sort of thing is not needed. The facts are salient. The whole narrative is remarkably clear-cut, definite, and convincing. One cannot help feeling that this workmanlike, thoroughly informed biography is just the kind of record that Reid himself would have approved.

GREAT AMERICAN ISSUES. By John Hays Hammond and Jeremiah W. Jenks. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Whether we like it or not, we all have to attend the school of political experience. We may be, and often are, dull or indifferent pupils, but here we are, in the school. We are for the most part ill provided with text books; there is no lack of books designed for those who go to the lesser schools, but there are few precisely suited to the needs of the student in the biggest school of all. Here we have to learn what we can by observation and reflection. The lessons for the day are always the urgent issues of the time, and the discussions that go on about these are usually neither systematic nor fundamental.

Great American Issues is essentially an educational book—a book for thinking people who know that their student days did not really end when they graduated from high school or college. It is extremely well suited to the needs of thoughtful citizens. True, a book might be written on any one of the subjects dealt with in its several chapters—the struggle for good government, labor and capital, the standard of living, unemployment, immigration, competition and big business, the tariff, to name a few. But what the authors have aimed at has been, apparently, to present only the essential considerations and to draw only the obviously legitimate conclusions. In this they have been conspicuously successful. Necessarily condensed, and a little dogmatic in tone, the book is no mere primer, but a sober discussion written in an interesting and even a challenging style.

What wins confidence is the breadth of view of the authors combined with their willingness to pronounce definitely upon questions which, though still more or less debatable, are ripe for summing up. There is evidently not only a fresh overhauling of the questions studied but a judicious weighing of the best opinions. And the premises are sound. "Those who follow this discussion throughout," say the authors, "will realize that the power behind all political, social and business enterprises is the individual man. They will see that hope for better democracy, better society, and better business, lies after all in a better breed of men." Modern conditions, however, require modern

methods; and "it is no accident that every move for better government in recent years has been along lines approved by the experience and practice of business."

The authors favor a budget system, reserve judgment on the various plans for regulating the relations of capital and labor, express an opinion in general favorable to minimum wage legislation, suggest the creation of a Federal Business Commission, advocate further restriction of immigration, emphasize the need of a protective tariff under present conditions. On the whole, their attitude accords with the present mood of the country—a mood of conservatism tempered by progressive tendencies. Surely the discussion of many subjects is less partizan than formerly and there is a greater disposition to recognize opposite interests and points of view. The kind of action recommended by Messrs. Hammond and Jenks is in general that which seems most practicable at our present stage of civilization.

The book is by no means lacking in effectiveness of expression. "A bald statement that competition is beneficial," say the authors, "has no meaning whatever. . . . One might as well say that eleven o'clock is a good hour. . . . Eleven o'clock has in itself no goodness or badness, no religious, moral, ethical, or utilitarian quality whatever. Neither has competition." If this is obvious, the need for such wisdom is no less so, and simplicity in illustration, no less than brevity, is the soul of wit. The authors have succeeded in putting their tariff philosophy into a nutshell: "The tariff thus is an element in the distribution of incomes which causes the expenditures of the less thrifty to take the form of new capital in the hands of the more enterprising element of the population. In the end this benefit of thrift and industrial enterprise spreads throughout all classes." Throughout the book, unobtrusive skill in exposition makes possible the expression of much thought in little space.

Perhaps there is no other book quite like this of Mr. Hammond's and Mr. Jenks'. It is in its way something new in the world. Possibly what really strikes one as somewhat novel and encouraging is that a book like this implies a very large and at the same time a highly intelligent body of readers.